

REMARKS

Claims 21-23, 25-27, 29, 32-34, and 61-67 are now in the application.

Claim 27 has been amended based upon the disclosure at page 7, lines 8-15, and page 17, lines 30-34. Applicants submit that this amendment puts the claims in better condition for allowance or appeal.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 27, 29 and 32-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Statler, U.S. Patent No. 2,842,791. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 27 has been amended to require a support head as part of the handle, which is not taught or suggested by Statler. Furthermore, Statler does not teach or suggest hooks that are permanently affixed to a support head such that an attachment layer of a cleaning pad comprises at least one surface which is mechanically attachable to the hooks on the support head, as presently claimed. Therefore, Claims 27, 29 and 32-35 are not anticipated by Statler under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 27, 29 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Brown, U.S. Patent No. 5,533,226. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 27 has been amended to require a support head as part of the handle, which is not taught or suggested by Brown. Furthermore, Brown does not teach or suggest hooks that are permanently affixed to a support head such that an attachment layer of a cleaning pad comprises at least one surface which is mechanically attachable to the hooks on the support head, as presently claimed. Therefore, Claims 27, 29 and 32-34 are not anticipated by Brown under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 27, 29 and 32-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Nichols, U.S. Patent No. 5,609,255. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 27 has been amended to require a support head as part of the handle, which is not taught or suggested by Nichols. Furthermore, Nichols does not teach or suggest hooks that are permanently affixed to a support head such that an attachment layer of a cleaning pad comprises at least one surface which is mechanically attachable to the hooks

on the support head, as presently claimed. Therefore, Claims 27, 29 and 32-35 are not anticipated by Nichols under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21-23, 25, 26 and 61-67 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols in view of Newell, U.S. Patent No. 4,995,133. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection based on the arguments set forth in Applicants' previous Amendment dated March 21, 2001. Nichols provides no suggestion or motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the pad of Nichols such that it becomes a single-use cleaning pad, as suggested in the Office Action, since this would certainly defeat the intended purpose of the cleaning pad of Nichols, which is a washable and reuseable cleaning pad, rather than a single-use cleaning pad. Since there is no motivation or suggestion to modify Nichols as proposed by the Office Action, nor motivation to combine the teachings of Nichols and Newell, this is an improper combination of references, as supported by the MPEP and case law, and Claims 21-23, 25, 26 and 61-67 are unobvious and patentable over Nichols in view of Newell under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 27 has been amended as follows:

27. (Thrice Amended) An implement for cleaning a surface, the implement comprising:

- a. a handle comprising a support head having a top surface and a bottom surface, said support head comprising hooks permanently affixed to said bottom surface of said support head; and
- b. a removable cleaning pad having an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein the cleaning pad has multiple widths in the z-dimension, and wherein the cleaning pad comprises:
 - i. a scrubbing layer;
 - ii. an absorbent layer; and
 - iii. an attachment layer comprising a material that is essentially fluid impervious and at least one surface which is mechanically attachable to said hooks affixed to said bottom surface of said support head;

wherein the lower surface of the cleaning pad comprises two or more discrete surfaces each of which contact the surface being cleaned.